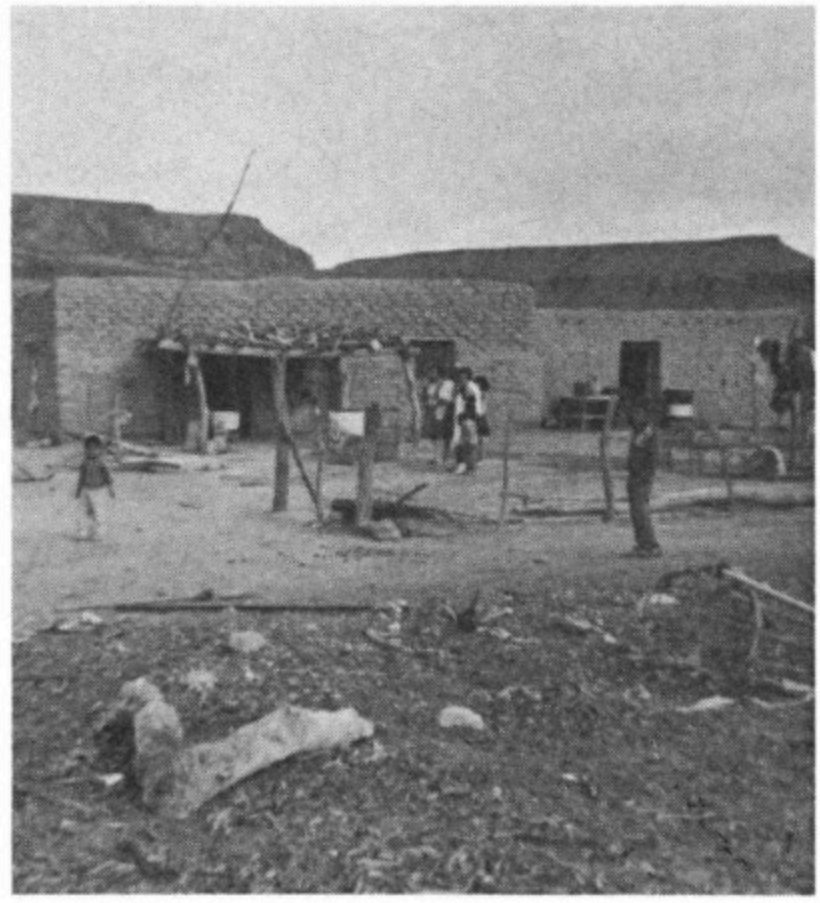
Baptist General Convention of Texas. The Association began to search for a bilingual man to serve as superintendent of missions. On June 1, 1967, Reverend Glen E. Godsey of Plainview, Texas, accepted the call to serve as superintendent of missions for the Association and moved his family to Marfa to make their home. He established his office in the First Baptist Church building and began to work along the Rio Grande. Not only did he preach and teach in the state of Chihuahua, but also went at regular intervals to hold services at San Vicente and Boquillas in the state of Coahuila, Mexico.

After Reverend Godsey had finished the service on one of his trips to Boquillas, he returned to the Rio Grande to find that the toll donkey and owner had already gone home. From this experience he learned to take along an extra change of clothes.

The following four months in the field, Reverend Godsey and the Big Bend Baptist Association entered into a contract agreement with Reverend Lee and the trustees of the Rio Bravo Association of Churches. This agreement officially turned over the responsibilities of the churches to Reverend Godsey and the Big Bend Baptist Association.

In the summer of 1967, the Texas Baptist General Convention assigned four young men, who were summer volunteer missionaries known as "Invincibles," to work with Reverend Godsey, conducting Vacation Bible Schools along the Rio Grande. They were Manuel Galindo, John Casarez, Mike Holmes, and Julian Silva. A small honorarium was paid to each, plus their expenses. Before coming to work in the area, they attended a one-week training school at the Southwestern Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. During 1968, 133 "Invincibles" went into the field. They spent ten weeks along the banks of the Rio Grande, both in Texas and Mexico, conducting Vacation Bible Schools and distributing Bibles to many persons who had never owned one. With few modern facilities, the young people camped in remote regions, living among the people they were teaching.

Each of the churches on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande is sponsored by a sister church on the Texas side. The First Baptist Church of Van Horn sponsors the Lomas de Arena Church. Last fall they began the construction of a thirty-two feet by fifty-two feet church building of adobe blocks weighing approximately thirty pounds each. With the help of the villagers, people from the Van Horn church, including their pastor, Reverend H. L. Bingham, and other groups who donated their labor, the building was dedicated on May 26, 1968.



Adobe home in the village of El Comedor

The First Baptist Church of Alpine sponsors the Church at Pilares, which is located ten miles down the river from the Porvenir Church. Previously, the congregation of Pilares worshipped in a small building occupying an area of only 216 square feet. There the local people, assisted by people from Alpine and other volunteer groups, erected a large building which is now in the finishing stages. Work groups of men arrived from as far away as Groves, Lufkin, and Big Lake, Texas, to assist in the building at Pilares.